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30 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Brief on the Persian Gulf for Senate Armed Service
Committee Staffers

1. On 30 May 1984, [] of DI/NESA and [] of DI/OGI briefed Senate Armed Services Committee staffers on the crisis in the Persian Gulf. Staffers present included Arnold Punaro, Richard Finn, James Locher, Drew Harker, Jeff Smith and Bill Hoehn. No transcript was taken. The briefing took place in SROB 232A. []

2. [] began the briefing with an update on the Iran-Iraq war. He used briefing boards to illustrate the order of battle and how the Iranians might launch an offensive aimed at capturing the Iraqi town of Al Basrah. He described the military capability and strategy of each combatant as well as the long and short-term objectives of Iranian and Iraqi political leaders. Also discussed in detail was the escalation of the war to air strikes on oil tankers in the Gulf and the growing involvement of other Gulf states. []

3. [] discussed the impact of the conflict on the oil market. He also described the critical importance of Kharg Island to Iranian oil exports and illustrated how a complete cutoff of Iranian oil could be tolerated by higher production in other oil-producing states. The 1-1/2 hour briefing concluded with thanks from the staffers. I agreed to provide the staff with maps of the region in the next several days. []

[]
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

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